

From: Italy Report No. Local File No: 23 Aug 1951
No. of Pages: No. of Enclosures: 16
Report Made By: Approved By: C
Distribution: File...
By copy to: ~~SECRET/REF ID: A6592~~ (Plan LAPPEND)
Washington (3) File's (1)

Source Cryptonym: References:

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

1. Attached herewith are two copies of seven documents received through in connection with Plan LAPPEND. The comments of concerning these documents are set forth in the attached memorandum.
2. Also attached is microfilm roll of attached documents.

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Classification: SECRET CONTROL (U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY)

Form No. 10-65
FEB 1948

COPY

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H T T A C H. 2

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Vatican Documents

There are seven documents of which four (a to d) are communications from the Vatic to Cardinal Tisserant and the remainder copies of documents received by the Vatican Secretariat of State and forwarded under a cover letter to Cardinal Tisserant for his information. This suggests that at least one of the sources of the present batch of letters has access to the offices of the Oriental Congregation.

Item a. is a letter addressed to Tisserant by the Bishop of Pulti, Albania, dated 16 July 1951, reporting a meeting held by the leaders of the Albanian clergy to discuss their position vis-a-vis an imminently expected Albanian law setting up a national Catholic church under full state control. The letter contains references to the situation within Albania and to resistance activities. The writer states that he is sending his letter to Tisserant by means of a trusted Catholic. The receipt stamp of the Oriental Congregation in Rome gives date of arrival as 20 July.

Item b. dated 22 July 1951 (date of arrival in the Oriental Congregation shown as 3 August) is a second letter from Bishop of Pulti giving further details of the difficult position of the Church in Albania. It also touches upon forced labor, specifically for the building of a road on the frontier towards Macedonia which, according to rumor, is to facilitate a Russian advance from Bulgaria.

Item c. is a report from Bishop CASSULI (Apostolic Delegate in Turkey) purportedly in response to a request for information on a visit to Ankara by the Secretary-General of the Arab League on 15 June. This document, dated 27 July 1951, is addressed to Tisserant. The report notes that the Secretary-General's purpose is to achieve formation of an "international third force" of Moslem countries, transcending the present league, which would have the effective backing of Turkey. Reference is also made to the possibility of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and the Vatican. It should be noted that this report tends to stress the potential strength of a Moslem grouping and the cohesion of the Arab countries. The last paragraph of page 2 of this report seems to show a decided pro-Turk tendency.

Item d. is a report from Bishop Gustavus TESSA (Apostolic Delegate to Palestine and Trans-Jordan) dated Jerusalem 2 July 1951 and bearing stamp of receipt dated 13 July. This report is also an answer to a query on the situation in Trans-Jordan, and the new ministry, and on Abdullah's appointment of a custodian of the Holy places. Attached to this document is an alleged plan of agreement between Trans-Jordan and Israel, a copy of a decree nominating the custodian of the Holy places, and copy of a decree of annexation of Arab Palestine. According to the alleged plan of agreement the two countries will have an associated economic council and a joint defense council.

Item e. is a report from TECTA to the Vatican Secretariat of State dated Jerusalem 3 July 1951, and forwarded by the Secretariat to Cardinal TISSERANT under cover letter dated 15 July 1951. The report deals with the meeting of the chiefs of staff of the Arab countries at Bludan, Syria. According to this report the Bludan conference adopted a plan of attack against Israel. The tone of the report is one of serious warning.

Item f. is a report (from the Apostolic Delegate in Egypt?) dated Cairo, 2 July 1951, to the Vatican Secretariat of State, and forwarded on 16 July to TISSERANT under a cover letter signed by TARDINI. The cover letter specifically notes that the document may be retained in the files of the Oriental Congregation. This report is also in response to a request for information on the situation in Egypt. It analyzes anti-British feeling in the country and British-Egyptian tensions. Reference is made to a statement by the British Ambassador on conditions under which the British military withdrawal from the Canal might be possible. A brief analysis of the strength of the Arab League stresses the inadequacies of the League.

Item g. is a copy of a report from Cassulo dated Istanbul, 13 July 1951, to the Secretariat of State and forwarded to TISSERANT under a cover letter signed TARDINI dated 25 July 1951. This report analyzes the situation in Turkey, stressing particularly the moderating influence of the democratic party and of the new president over the past year, specifically in religious matters.

In comparison with the first page of documents from this plan these appear to be of considerably higher intrinsic intelligence interest. This is true particularly of item d and item e. This batch also contains, in items a and b, first documents originating outside the Middle East proper although the Albanian Church presumably comes under the Oriental Congregation and may thus be, so to speak, a part of the Vatican "Middle East desk." The greater intelligence interest of this batch may very possibly reflect a deliberate selection by the source or by _____ to whet the appetite of prospective purchasers. At the same time certain of these documents, specifically those of greatest superficial interest, could be interpreted as planted material. Under the face of it these documents have the same apparent authenticity as the first batch, with numerous underscorings, file stamps, and so forth.